

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 14 Jul 1949

SUBJECT Port of Odessa

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A
PLACE
ACQUIRED OdessaNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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2. No noteworthy damage was seen on the Quarantine Breakwater, or on the other wharves. There were noticeable shortages of warehouses and freight sheds. Everywhere on the quays and piers huge piles of goods were seen, mostly farm machinery, but also wool from Australia and rubber from Malaya. I noticed from the markings on the goods that the farm machinery originated from Czechoslovakia, probably shipped down the Danube to the Black Sea.
3. There were railway tracks running along the quays.
4. Oil storage tanks as shown on the B.A. charts of Odessa. Oil tankers were discharging at the oil docks.
5. No Naval vessels, except minor craft (probably coast guard vessels), were seen in port. Outside the harbor, about 2 miles to the S.E. from the harbor entrance, a medium size U-boat was at anchor.
6. A signal station was situated on the pilot station, shown in the chart.
7. Several cargo vessels of various types, including one liberty ship, all flying the Soviet flag, were observed in port. A modern-type passenger vessel of approximately 6000 gross ton, painted white, was moored alongside one of the piers close to us. Regarding cargo handling there was noticeably little activity. I saw hardly any of the vessels loading or discharging cargo. Some presumably were war-damaged ships and laid up. A few ships were being repaired. I did not see any ships equipped with radar.
8. The ships' crew was invited to the "International Club" where they were entertained. Films (mostly propaganda films, showing Russian progress) were shown to them.
9. The ships' agents and others who could speak English liked to discuss politics. They were of the same opinion; i.e., that the "A Pact" (Atlantic) was something the "warmongers from Wall Street" had talked Norway and other countries into joining because they (the warmongers) wanted a new war to make more money, and that they (the Russians) did not want war.
10. I got the impression that the people I talked with about these things were very frightened of the possibility of new war, and that they really meant it. I also

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- 25X1C understood that the people were misled to the utmost by the intense one-sided propaganda from their authorities.
11. [redacted] did not have to go through any extended entering formality but military guard was kept on board until we sailed. A thorough search over the entire ship, including cargo holds, was made by the military guard supplemented by a dozen or more men. The government-appointed ships Agency, "Inflot" was very efficient and helpful in every respect.
- 25X1C
12. [redacted]
13. The people seemed comparatively well-fed after European standards, and fairly well-clothed. The only complaint I heard about present conditions was that they had to work hard. In nearly all lines of work, they had eight-hour shifts, day and night.
14. Stores of every kind could be bought, but in spite of 50 per cent price reductions offered foreign ships, the cost was prohibitive. We needed charts, but were unable to obtain any.

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